

NO. 3237

WEATHER—FAIR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1915.

ONE CENT.

In Washington and Points Suburban
Thereof, ELSEWHERE TWO CENTS.

"UNFRIENDLY ACT" IS SEEN BY OFFICIALS IN ARABIC'S DESTRUCTION

Preliminary Reports Reveal No Circumstances
Extenuating Latest Outrage—Crisis Believ-
ed Near Unless Berlin Repudiates Attack

WILSON EXPEDITES INQUIRY

Ambassador Page, at London, Instructed to Cable Summary
of Affidavits Obtained by Him—Gerard to Make
Inquiries at German Foreign Office.

If, after a full investigation of the facts, the Washington administration is convinced that Germany committed a "deliberately unfriendly" act in the sinking of the steamship Arabic, diplomatic relations between the two governments will immediately be severed.

The circumstances of the sinking of the White Star liner, as they now appear from unofficial reports, are regarded by Washington authorities as constituting an act of that character. Only the establishment of new facts in connection with the attack on the Arabic or a disavowal by Germany of the act of her submarine commander can therefore avert a crisis in the relations between the United States and Germany. This was learned here yesterday on high authority.

President Wilson will avail himself of every opportunity consistent with the honor and dignity of the United States government to avoid a rupture with Germany, but he will go no further. There will be no backward step from the solemn warning conveyed to Germany in the last note of this government. Information obtained here yesterday sweeps away every vestige of doubt as to the President's resolution to deal firmly and quickly with the situation, once he is convinced that American rights on the high seas have again been deliberately violated by the German government.

WILSON TAKES STEPS TO EXPEDITE JUDGMENT.

Until complete information is at hand, though, Mr. Wilson and Secretary Lansing will reserve final judgment on the sinking of the White Star liner. The hope of the President and his advisers is that this judgment will not be long deferred. Steps were taken yesterday to expedite matters. Instructions were sent to Ambassador Page at London to cable a summary of the affidavits obtained by him, and a message also was forwarded to Ambassador Gerard at Berlin directing him to inquire of the Berlin foreign office if a report had been received from the commander of the German submarine in regard to the sinking of the Arabic. Mr. Gerard is not to ask for any explanation, but his inquiry will amount to an invitation to Germany to give this government the report of the submarine commander. Also the opportunity will be at hand for Germany to make any statement in her own defense if she desires to do so.

There is no way of telling exactly how long it will be before a reply is received from Ambassador Gerard. There have been suggestions from Berlin already that it might be a week or even two weeks before the German admiralty receives a report from the submarine which sank the Arabic. If Germany desires to play for time, she will have the means at her disposal for doing so, for President Wilson is determined that this government shall do nothing rashly, but shall act only after it has received full information available in regard to the attack upon the Arabic. It is assumed by government officials that Germany will not unnecessarily delay the presentation of her side of the case.

To emphasize the determination of the President to secure all possible information before closing his mind as to the Arabic incident, this statement was issued at the White House: "The Secretary to the President, after a conference with the President this afternoon, made the following statement: "With reference to the sinking of the Arabic, as soon as all the facts are ascertained, our course of action will be determined." There was evidence of some irritation in official quarters yesterday over the fact that no detailed evidence had yet been received from Ambassador Page. The dispatches received from the Ambassador thus far have contained merely expressions of opinion and his own views in regard to the sinking of the White Star steamship. What the State Department officials are anxious to have are the facts contained in the affidavits of the survivors and of the officers of the vessel. The belief here is that the embassy in London has had considerable difficulty in obtaining this evidence, especially statements of Americans who scattered after they had landed at Queenstown. Some of this matter already has been mailed by Ambassador Page, but the request forwarded to him yesterday for a detailed summary is expected to give the Washington officials basis for considering the case.

ONLY ONE COURSE OPEN TO GOVERNMENT.

The little group of men who are familiar with what is in the President's mind expressed surprise yesterday that any uncertainty could have existed as to the course which he will follow if the facts in regard to the Arabic are as they now seem to be. It was insisted that Mr. Wilson has been absolutely consistent in his policy toward the German submarine issue ever since the first note was prepared; that it was the unwillingness of Secretary Bryan to follow this policy to its logical conclusion that necessitated his withdrawal from the administration, and that, in short, there is only one alternative open to the government other than a severance of diplomatic relations unless it is to abandon completely its determination to stand upon its declaration of principles. That alternative is a more radical and drastic step.

From opinions expressed by persons close to the President, it became apparent yesterday that Mr. Wilson believes that the United States cannot pass over a deliberate disregard of the warning contained in the last note to Germany. There is reason to believe that he feels that to let such an act go unchallenged would be a blow to American self-respect and honor and would be possible only if the country itself lacked the courage to deal with the violation of rights as it deserved.

LEAGUE OF NEUTRAL NATIONS SUGGESTED.

The difficulty about Germany formally disavowing the sinking of the Arabic would probably be that it would involve by inference at least a concession to the United States on the principles involved in the submarine controversy. Suggestions were heard here yesterday of the possibility of the organization of a league of neutral nations for the protection of their rights on the high seas under the leadership of the United States. So far as could be learned no serious consideration was being given to it by this government at present, but some persons believed that the formation of such a league might be advisable in the event of a diplomatic break with Germany. Up to this time the United States

U. S. at Odds With Turkey

Friction Develops Over Ac-
tion by Porte Against
Scorpion.

Mitylene, Aug. 23.—Some friction has occurred between the American Embassy and the Porte with reference to the dispatch boat Scorpion.

According to one account, the Turks compelled the vessel to quit its moorings at Toppa and take up a position inside the Golden Horn.

Another version merely states that the American vessel is being kept under close surveillance.

The Porte is said to have refused to deliver to Ambassador Morgenthau's consequent remonstrances, but tried at the same time to placate him by granting permission, heretofore refused, for the departure of several English and French residents.

Rome, Aug. 23.—The existence of a state of war between Italy and Turkey will not take effect until neutral nations have acknowledged receipt of Italy's notification. This explains why hostilities have not yet opened. The delay, however, is not expected to exceed a couple of days.

Navy Bay, the Turkish Ambassador, has been instructed to arrange with the Spanish Ambassador to assume protection of Turkish interests in Italy. Italian interests in Turkey will be looked after by the American minister at Constantinople, who also succeeds the Italian Ambassador in the protection of Russian interests, which were entrusted to Italy.

\$30,000,000 FOR PLANTERS' RELIEF

Government Takes First Step
to Help Move
Cotton.

CAUSED BY WAR DECREE

Large Sum to Be Deposited in South-
ern Banks—No Interest
Charged.

The first step on the part of the Federal government to relieve the Southern cotton planters was taken yesterday. Announcement was made at the Treasury Department that Secretary McAdoo will deposit \$30,000,000 in gold in the Federal reserve banks of Atlanta, Dallas and Richmond, so large a sum is needed, to facilitate the financing of the cotton crop. This step was decided upon as a result of the action of the allies in putting cotton on the contraband list.

The deposits, according to the official announcement, will be "for the purpose of enabling those Federal reserve banks to rediscunt loans made on cotton secured by warehouse receipts by national banks and those State banks that are members of the Federal reserve system."

No interest will be charged on these deposits. It is intended that the deposits shall make it possible for the member banks to charge low rates on loans on warehouse cotton, and indications are that the Federal Reserve Board will fix extremely low rates on rediscouted paper of this character.

No disclosures have been made as to what other steps are under contemplation for the relief of the cotton situation. The idea of government officials is that loans at low rates of interest will enable cotton planters to hold back from the market a part of their crop, thus helping to maintain the price.

The President had an important conference yesterday with Mr. W. P. G. Harding, of the Federal Reserve Board, who has had supervision of all problems arising for the board out of the cotton situation. Many phases of the situation were gone into, and steps which seem to be advisable were discussed. No announcement was made, however, as to what plans the President and Mr. Harding have under consideration.

POCKETS STONES TO DIE.

German, Worried by Arms Trade,
Leaps Into River.

New York, Aug. 23.—The second German at the National Conduit and Cable Company, at Hastings on the Hudson, to commit suicide within a week ended his life today by killing his pockets full of stones and leaping into the river. He was Christopher Derner, a watchman, who replaced Gustave Gross, the first suicide. Both men were grieved because the plant was manufacturing munitions for the allies.

WANTS \$50,000 FOR HER LOVE.

Scriber's Brother-in-law Sues Him
for Taking Wife.

New York, Aug. 23.—Frederick William Hunter, who was a classmate of John Barrett Kerfoot, author and magazine writer, in Columbia University, and who later became Kerfoot's brother-in-law, today sued him in the Supreme Court for \$50,000 damages. Hunter charges Kerfoot with winning the affections of Mrs. Annie Belleveyle Haight Hunter and with entering her from her home. Kerfoot denies the charges.

Faithful Dog Joins Women Of Mystery in Suicide Pact

Covered by Last Remaining Piece of Finery, Sisters Who
Ended Life Tragedy by Gas Are Found
in Denuded Dwelling.

Reduced to poverty, the last of their salable furniture gone for bread, two sisters lay upon their beds at 538 Eleventh street southeast early Sunday and waited for gas to fill their room. Their bodies were found last night by police. At the foot of the bed was their dead companion a dog.

The women were Maude Burrows, a cripple, and her sister Mollie, afflicted with cancer.

Over the bodies on the bare slats was a coverlet of fine workmanship, the last of their finery. In the kitchen on the floor below, two mugs and saucers were uncleared from the last meal. A bone on the floor probably had been left by the dog as its mistress whistled it to the room of death.

In several notes, the sisters said they wanted "to end it all."

The two sisters, mysterious to their neighbors, evidently had spent their last money for a gas meter. The neighbors and police say they did it to end the tragedy of their history.

The meter was installed Friday. No money was found among the effects of the women, though there were numerous tax receipts, indicating possession of property.

Hobbled Along Dark Streets.

Maude, the cripple, was often seen hobbling along the dark streets, her lame left leg dragging pitifully. Mollie, with her affliction, was rarely seen by the neighbors, the last time being Friday afternoon, when she sat on the front steps of the home and fended a strange kitten.

Maude was about 40 years of age, her sister five years her senior.

Driven from one house to another, the last more humble than the rest, until they went to 538 Eleventh street—the best in their known career—the two women struggled secretly for their livelihood, the one trying to support her crippled sister, the other lending her aid that the cancerous affliction might be cured.

Some two years ago they lived in Twelfth street southeast, a policeman said, recalling the careers of the eccentric sisters. From there they went to a lonely dwelling on New Jersey avenue, across from the Washington fertilizing plant. The New Jersey avenue home was condemned by the District. It had no roof.

A month or so ago the sisters, with their dog, which had been with them for years, moved into the Eleventh street house, a flat of at least ordinary appearance. With them came their furniture, of usual quality, say those who saw the movers carry it from the wagon.

Two weeks ago the furniture began to be taken from the house. Only one piece was carted away at a time, until, when police broke in last night, only the kitchen table, a rough stand at the cripple's couch, a wicker rocking chair, two kitchen chairs, and the bedstead remained. No rugs were on the floors, unswept for weeks. A few pictures, some of women taken twenty or thirty years ago and colored postal cards, lined a mantle. The photographs evidently were of members of the family.

Mollie was the sister to be seen last by the police. That was about 2 o'clock Sunday morning. Neighbors became alarmed at the silence of the house, for two days without a sign of life, and last night notified the police. Policemen John Heese and J. H. B. Swain, of the Fifth precinct, were sent to the house at 3 o'clock. The last room they visited was on the second floor. They broke into the bedroom and were stunned by the onrush of gas. The door and windows had been stuffed with rags.

An investigation was made by Acting Coroner William Carr and certificates of suicide were written.

Among the effects of the women were several notes, one addressed to the coroner, another to a Washington newspaper, and a third to the police. In all was the despair of living and the desire "to end it all."

Two insurance policies for small amounts also were found, as was a receipt for a family plot in Rock Creek Cemetery, dated 1902.

The two sisters wrote that their dying wish was to be buried together.

TWO TONS OF JEWELS ATTRACT SUSPECTS

Sleuths Rushed to Protect \$1,000,000
Exhibit at Exhibition of
Jewelers.

New York, Aug. 23.—Two tons of jewels, valued at more than \$1,000,000, attracted such a crowd of suspicious appearing persons to the Grand Central Palace today that a hundred private detectives were rushed there to protect the gems.

The collection of diamonds, pearls, rubies, and other precious stones is being exhibited in connection with the tenth annual convention of the American National Retail Jewelers' Association.

The jewelers will set the styles for next year in their session Friday. Wrist watches for men will be the rage, they say. Another new style will be diamond wedding rings.

DOZEN GERMAN SUBS CAUGHT IN SEA NETS

Taken in One Month in Channel,
Canadian Declares—Boat Dodges
Thirteen "Hoodoo."

New York, Aug. 23.—W. D. Gregory, a Toronto attorney, who arrived from England today aboard the Anchor liner Tuscania, declared that twelve German submarines were captured in the English channel during the month of July by means of the nets spread underneath the surface.

He said that England would curtail her purchases of war munitions in this country if American manufacturers continue to demand the establishment of a vast British credit.

The Tuscania sailed from Glasgow via Liverpool for New York on Friday, the 15th. Not a German U-boat was sighted, but passengers who had confessed their superstitions were relieved only when the Irish coast was far astern.

DOESN'T LIKE OUR GOWNS.

Isadora Duncan Scores American
Fashions in Paris Paper.

Paris, Aug. 23.—Isadora Duncan, the dancer, writing for a Paris newspaper, delivers the following tirade against American wear and present-day fashions:

"Fashionable gowns are for flat-chested, hipless women given to short skirts. No French woman would wear such a gown. They are made for New York women and harmonize with the architecture of New York and the vulgar snobishness of Newport society."

British Submarine Turk Ship.

Sofia (via London), Aug. 23.—A British submarine has sunk the Turkish collier Espahan and the Levant liner Budos in the Sea of Marmara. The Budos was loaded with ammunition and provisions.

Attend Great Rockville Fair.
Take Baltimore & Ohio trains at 8:20 a. m. and 12:30 p. m., returning after tea.

Finch Grins at "Mine" Excuse

"Absurd," Says Arabic's
Captain of Suggestion Of-
fered by Germans.

Liverpool, Aug. 23.—Capt. William Finch, of the Arabic, issued a statement tonight on the German report that there was no proof the Arabic had been sunk by a German submarine and that she must have struck a British mine. He said:

"There is not the slightest doubt that the Arabic was sunk by a torpedo. Neither is there the slightest doubt that it was fired at the Arabic deliberately.

It is quite true we never saw any submarine or any periscope, but I saw the white streak made by the passage of the torpedo through the water—a white streak that commenced with air bubbles in the water three hundred yards from us at the point where it was discharged at us.

"There was no mistaking the cause of that white streak, which ended in a torpedo entering the ship and causing the explosion which sank the vessel. I was not alone in seeing it. The chief officer, the second officer and many passengers saw it. No one can doubt for a moment that it was deliberately fired at the Arabic. Those aboard the submarine evidently saw us and got into a position ready to release their torpedo.

"The suggestion that a mine caused the explosion is perfectly absurd."

"HANDS OFF" IS CARRANZA REPLY

Sets Up Contention that Mex-
ico Is Capable of Handling
Her Own Affairs.

PEACE NOTE ANSWERED

First Chief Tells Consul in El Paso
His Reply Has Gone
Forward.

El Paso, Tex., Aug. 23.—Gen. Venustiano Carranza reported today from Vera Cruz to his consul in this city that he has replied to the Pan-American note proposing a peace conference in Mexico.

The answer, though friendly, is reported to set up the contention that Mexico is capable of handling her own affairs.

No reply has yet been received by the State Department from Gen. Carranza in response to the appeal sent him urging a peace parley for the settlement of the troubles in Mexico.

A high official of the department yesterday said that nothing more than a polite acknowledgment of the receipt of the note is expected. The State Department understands that Carranza will insist that he be recognized as the head of the Mexican government.

That the peace plans of the administration so far have failed is conceded. The State Department has unofficial information that the other republics signatory to the appeal will not support this government if it undertakes active intervention in Mexico.

Just when Carranza will transfer his headquarters from Vera Cruz to Mexico City is not indicated in dispatches received from the former town. It is expected, however, that he will move on to Mexico City by the middle of the week unless he again changes his program.

Senator Cardozo, the Brazilian minister to Mexico City for many years, who has just retired from that post, had a long conference yesterday with Secretary of State Lansing. It is understood that Senator Cardozo gave Mr. Lansing a graphic recital of conditions in Mexico, a recital that probably reflected on the ability of Carranza to rule. Senator Cardozo will further discuss the question with Mr. Lansing today.

If reports from Mexico are to be credited, Gen. Villa and Gen. Obregon are about to clash in an important battle in the neighborhood of Torreón. Advice received here are to the effect that Villa has recently been re-enforced, and that he is prepared to check the northern advance of Gen. Obregon. Obregon wants to pierce the north in which Villa has strong foothold. It is understood that a battle is raging or is imminent near Monterrey.

ITALY GIVES UP PELAGOSA.

Evacuation of Important Island
Announced by Vienna.

Vienna, Aug. 23.—Evacuation of Pelagosa Island in the Adriatic Sea by the Italians was officially announced today. The abandonment of the island followed a bombardment by Austrian ships and aeroplanes, which destroyed the Italians' defenses.

The Austrians have delivered several attacks against the Italian position upon Pelagosa in order to prevent the establishment of a naval base there.

The island affords a position of great strategic importance for naval operations in the Upper Adriatic.

330,000 Chicago and Return.
Baltimore and Ohio, account Convention I. R. P. O. E. Tickets on sale August 29, 30, 31. Good returning until September 7.—Adv.

BREST-LITOVSK NEAR CAPTURE BY TEUTONS; OSSOWIC IS OCCUPIED

London, However, Looks to Russian Success
In Gulf of Riga Battle to Stem Advance
Of Victorious Germans for Brief Period.

SECOND DEFENSES TOTTERING

Official Dispatches from Russia to Britain Indicate Govern-
ment Is Trying to Prepare Populace for Further
Successes by Invaders in Poland.

London, Aug. 23.—While the naval victory in the Gulf of Riga reported by the Russians, it is believed will remove, for the time being at least, the danger of a German advance on Petrograd, semi-official dispatches received from the Russian capital indicate that the government is preparing the public for the loss of Brest-Litovsk and the entire second line of defenses.

Military experts here are of the opinion that the German plan of campaign has been struck a severe blow in the failure of the operations against Riga, but admit that the situation for the Russians at Brest-Litovsk is precarious.

The fortress is reported to be invested from three sides, and the Germans are striking at the railroads upon which it depends.

The occupation of Ossowic, last remaining Russian stronghold in Poland, reported today by Berlin, gives the Germans control of the railway to Bialsk and Brest-Litovsk, completing their grip on the Polish railways feeding the Warsaw-Petrograd trunk line.

The fortress was evacuated by the Russians when the advance of Prince Leopold's forces threatened its envelopment.

It is believed that all the military stores and guns were removed. Berlin makes no claim to the capture of booty.

Aside from the losses inflicted on the German army, the Russian success in the Gulf of Riga, it is believed here, will have a serious strategic effect upon the land operations of Von Hindenburg, which for a time, constituted a menace to Petrograd.

RIGA WILL BE MENACE TO GERMANS.

In fact, competent military experts assert, it may dislodge the entire German plan of campaign. It was upon outflanking movement which Hindenburg was directing his efforts that a great portion of the ermaGn strategy hinged, it is stated, and it is believed that the German failure at Riga will prevent the Germans from continuing their attempt, as Riga, as a Russian naval base, constitutes a serious menace in Hindenburg's rear.

Not having met with success against Riga by land, it is believed, the Germans brought up a number of the major units of their fleet, intending to effect their object by sea.

Germans Inactive in Riga Region; Press Fierce Attack East of Kovno

Petrograd, Aug. 23.—The expulsion of the German fleet from the Gulf of Riga has perceptibly eased the position of the Russians on this front, but authoritative military circles here refrain from exaggerating the effects of the victory. They admit the Germans may make other attempts to obtain mastery of the Gulf of Riga.

It is obvious in this case that the naval and military plans of the Germans were closely co-ordinated. The unsuccessful attempt to land four barques full of troops near Pernau probably indicates the real purpose of the incursion.

ENTIRE BATTERIES SWEEP AWAY.

The Germans in this zone have an enormous mass of artillery. The refugees from Kovno, who watched the attack from the outskirts of the town, say that 600 guns concentrated their fire on one fort, which the Germans succeeded in destroying. The German batteries poured an unceasing rain of shells from an unbroken semi-circle with several rows of guns.

The Germans suffered very severely from the fire of the forts, and entire batteries were swept away by the blast of the Russian projectiles. Altogether the German losses are said to have exceeded those of the Russians.

A great deal of damage was done to Kovno itself. One big shell completely wrecked the facade of the Cathedral. While the attack was in progress thirty German aeroplanes and three dirigibles circled continually above the town, dropping bombs.

SURVIVES 7 WEDDINGS ONLY TO LAND IN JAIL

Four of His Wives to Appear Against
Russian with Fondness for
Bank Accounts.

Philadelphia, Aug. 23.—Since he arrived in this country from Russia ten years ago, Samuel Ravidoff, thirty-three, has married seven women, all of whom are living, according to the police here.

Ravidoff is today in a city hall court, pending a hearing at which four of the women will appear against him. He is said to have conducted his matrimonial campaigns in four cities.

Besides the four wives here, the police say Ravidoff has one in each of the cities of New York, Trenton, N. J., and Scranton, Pa.

Detective Miller, who had been trailing Ravidoff two years, said the Russian made love to women who had bank accounts, and after they were married would open a small barber shop.

Then, according to Miller, he would leave his wife, carrying off her money.

American Boy on Arabic.

Peter Dugal, of Livermore, Minn., an 18-year-old lad, who had fought in the trenches with a British regiment, was among the Arabic survivors, the State Department announced yesterday. The Dugal's mother, had effected his discharge from the British army.